

Ref 9-3804

28 May 57

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The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I should like to commend to your attention the fourth annual report of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications (copies attached). The work of this committee has been recognized by the Intelligence Advisory Committee as having made a major contribution to the production of intelligence. The committee coordinates the procurement, exploitation and referencing of foreign language publications from all over the world. This coordination is accomplished through the media of three subcommittees each to deal with one of the problems mentioned above.

It is self-evident that use cannot be made of publications for intelligence purposes unless and until they are expeditiously procured. The Department of State in its publication procurement program has been the major collector of the sorts of materials to which I refer. The program has been operative for sufficient time now to have accumulated experience upon which expansion can be intelligently based. Some of my people have been conferring with yours on the feasibility of such expansion.

Our studies indicate that augmentation of the procurement staff in Moscow to permit more travel into the hinterlands by skilled officers is of greatest import. A publication procurement officer stationed in Singapore with responsibility for Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Malaya and Viet Nam would be able to provide coverage of an area where communist infiltration has been very active. Southern Europe regional responsibility might be placed on a publication procurement officer based in Rome, Belgrade or Athens. Likewise northern Europe has no express collection mechanism for publications. Latin America is another area not presently covered by the program.

Because of the great value of foreign publications to the production of intelligence, you may wish to have your responsible officers discuss any shortages in qualified personnel or funds with my people in connection with the suggested augmentation of the publication procurement program or associated travel. I have discussed this matter with the Intelligence Advisory Committee, and the members have concurred in the views expressed in this letter to you.

Faithfully,

S/

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Attachments (2)

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